

U. S. SPY TRIAL DESCRIBED AS LAW CLASSIC

Parade of Witnesses Entering 8th Week

Newark, N. J., Nov. 22 — For the last seven weeks an American electronics engineer and a Russian chauffeur have sat at the defense table while an espionage trial that both judges and lawyers have called "a classic in law" and "a most sophisticated contest" proceeded in federal District court.

John W. Butenko, a 39-year-old bachelor, electronics expert, and possessor of most of the secrets of the inner workings of the strategic air command's defense and counter-strike plans, is charged with conspiracy to commit espionage against the United States.

Igor A. Ivanov, 34, a blond, heavy-jawed driver for the Russian trade organization, Amtorg, sits under the same charge. He follows the proceedings thru a hearing aid. His has been the role of virtual spectator altho like Butenko his life is at stake.

Three Others Accused

The two are accused by the United States of conspiring, along with three other Russians who are in the sanctuary of their homeland, to transmit defense secrets from the laboratories of an international telephone and telegraph company subsidiary in Paramus, N. J., to Moscow.

Mentioned frequently are Gleb A. Pavlov, Vladimir I. Olenov, and Yuri A. Romashin, members of the Russian mission to the United Nations who were implicated but not indicted. They invoked diplomatic immunity privileges and were expelled from the United States shortly after Butenko and Ivanov were arrested Oct. 29, 1963 near an Englewood, N. J., railroad station.

In relays, translators provide Ivanov with a running account in Russian of what is being said in the courtroom thru an electronic system. The translators are American citizens.

Reacts with Agitation

Butenko, a bespectacled, thin-lipped glowering man, reacts with agitation, incredulity, anger, and sometimes sardonic amusement to the proceedings. He scribbles notes constantly for his lawyer.

Sitting sometimes with and sometimes behind Ivanov is his lawyer, Samuel A. Lerner, who appears to view the proceedings with a detachment similar to that of his client.

The government has built its case on testimony of scores of agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's internal security and espionage division and the testimony of a number of air force officers assigned to the strategic air command operation.

Sought to Prove Meetings

Sanford M. Jaffe, assistant United States attorney, has sought to prove that between April and October of last year, Butenko and the Russians met at rendezvous points in Bergen county clandestinely to passing secrets to the Russians.

The government has charged that Butenko gave two secret documents from the laboratories of International Electric

corporation, an I. T. T. subsidiary, where he worked. The government said the documents were found in a car occupied by the Russians at the time of the arrests. Butenko was arrested nearby.

The government placed in evidence Butenko was arrested nearby.

The government placed in evidence Butenko's dispatch case, containing the documents and some of Butenko's private papers which, Jaffe charged, were in the Russians' possession when the arrests were made.

Claims It Isn't Secret

Brown has argued that the information contained in all the documents in question was available to the public and that no secrets were involved.

Judge Anthony T. Augelli in conducting the trial with a light hand and judicious humor which often softens the rancor that develops. A jury of eight women and four men is hearing the case.

Yesterday Judge Augelli took under advisement a demand from Brown for an investigation as to whether the FBI in searching Butenko's apartment in Orange, N. J., did so without a warrant and violated Butenko's rights. The judge will rule on the request tomorrow morning.

The trial will resume Tuesday morning.